

BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of

PRIDO POLANCO-MARTINEZ, M.D.

Holder of License No. 13131
For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
In the State of Arizona

Case No. MD-07-1012A

**CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR
LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

CONSENT AGREEMENT

By mutual agreement and understanding, between the Arizona Medical Board ("Board") and Prido Polanco-Martinez, M.D. ("Respondent"), the parties agreed to the following disposition of this matter.

1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement"). Respondent acknowledges that he has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.

2. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge this Consent Agreement in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action related thereto or arising from said Consent Agreement.

3. This Consent Agreement is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its Executive Director.

4. The Board may adopt this Consent Agreement or any part thereof. This Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against Respondent.

5. This Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver,

1 express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other
2 pending or future investigation, action or proceeding. The acceptance of this Consent
3 Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision or officer of this State from
4 instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject
5 of this Consent Agreement.

6 6. All admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this
7 matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving
8 the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended
9 or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government
10 regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the State of Arizona or
11 any other state or federal court.

12 7. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to
13 the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the acceptance of the
14 Consent Agreement. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
15 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
16 by the parties.

17 8. If the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, Respondent will not
18 assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of this Consent Agreement constitutes
19 bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.

20 9. This Consent Agreement, once approved and signed, is a public record that will
21 be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board and will be reported to the
22 National Practitioner Data Bank and to the Arizona Medical Board's website.

23 10. If any part of the Consent Agreement is later declared void or otherwise
24 unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement in its entirety shall remain in force
25 and effect.

1 11. Any violation of this Consent Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct
2 and may result in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(r) ("[v]iolating a formal order,
3 probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its
4 executive director under this chapter") and 32-1451.

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7 *Polanco*

DATED: *Jun-27-08*

8 PRIDO POLANCO-MARTINEZ, M.D.
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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

2. Respondent is the holder of license number 13131 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

3. The Board initiated case number MD-07-1012A after receiving notification of a malpractice settlement involving Respondent's care and treatment of a fifty-seven year-old female patient ("RB").

4. On January 19, 2003, RB was transported by emergency medical services to the emergency room (ER) following a minor motor vehicle accident. RB's chief complaint was left shoulder and neck pain and she was noted to have a right forehead abrasion. Respondent was the on duty ER physician that provided RB's care and treatment. It was noted in RB's chart that she had been on an anticoagulant (Coumadin) after previous mitral valve surgeries. Additionally, RB noted on her history that she previously suffered a stroke. Respondent noted that RB's neurological examination and the x-rays of the cervical spine and right shoulder were normal. Respondent did not order laboratory tests, including a head computed tomography (CT) to evaluate RB for intracranial bleeding. Additionally, Respondent did not order a prothrombin time (PT) and an international normalized ration (INR) test to evaluate how thin RB's blood was from the Coumadin. RB was discharged with head injury instructions and a recommendation for follow up.

5. On January 21, 2003, RB was flown to another hospital for a head CT scan and neurosurgical consult for a presumed intracranial bleed after she presented to the ER with left sided weakness, headache and decreased level of consciousness. The accepted INR level for a patient with a heart valve replacement is 3.5. RB's laboratory tests revealed her PT was 117 and her INR was 13.7, indicating the Coumadin was causing her blood to

1 be over-anticoagulated. RB was in a coma with a large right temporal and parietal
2 intraparenchymal hemorrhage and brain herniation. RB was intubated, coagulation
3 abnormalities were corrected and she was taken emergently to the operating room where
4 she underwent a right temporal lobe resection and evacuation of a right intracerebral
5 hematoma. RB was transferred to rehabilitation with a left hemiparesis and speech
6 impairment on February 3, 2003.

7 6. The standard of care for an anticoagulated patient involved in a motor
8 vehicle accident with noted head trauma requires a physician to perform a head CT scan
9 to evaluate for intracranial bleed and to check the patient's PT/INR.

10 7. Respondent deviated from the standard of care because he did not order a
11 head CT scan and check RB's PT/INR.

12 8. RB suffered a large brain bleed as a result of Respondent's failure to
13 diagnose her coagulopathy and required major brain surgery and she was left with a left
14 hemiparesis and speech impairment.

15 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

16 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
17 Respondent.

18 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
19 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(q) ("[a]ny conduct or practice that is or might be
20 harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.") and A.R.S. § 32-1401
21 (27)(ll) ("[c]onduct that the board determines is gross negligence, repeated negligence or
22 negligence resulting in harm to or the death of a patient.").

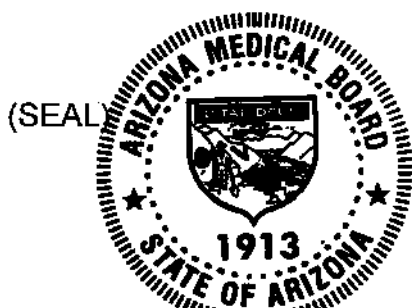
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand for failure to order prothrombin time, an international normalized ration and head computed tomography scan for a patient on Coumadin involved in a motor vehicle accident with a forehead abrasion.

2. This Order is the final disposition of case number MD-07-1012A.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 8th day of August, 2008.



ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

By

Lisa S. Wynn
Executive Director

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
this 8th day of August, 2008 with:

Arizona Medical Board
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
this 8th day of August, 2008 to:

Tom Slutes
Slutes Sakrison & Rogers PC
4801 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 301
Tucson, Arizona 85711-0001

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
this 8th day of August, 2008 to:

Prido Polanco-Martinez, M.D.
Address of Record

Chris Long
Investigational Review